

The President

Bruxelles 13. IV. 1989

SG (89) D/4674

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th January 1989 concerning the situation in Afghanistan.

I can confirm that the Commission shares your concern and has in fact been following closely the situation in the region for the last 12 months in order to be prepared to react rapidly to any new development.

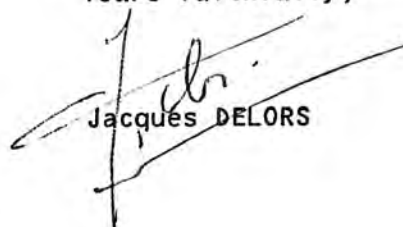
At the beginning of 1988 a task force was set up within the Commission with the aim of monitoring the situation, assessing the needs and coordinating the EEC and Member States efforts with those of other international bodies as well as non-governmental organisations. The Commission alone has already pledged a contribution of approximately 24 Mio Ecus of which the largest part consists in food aid but which also includes emergency aid, medical assistance and self-sufficiency projects, aiming at preparing the return of Afghan refugees and displaced persons and aiding other victims of the conflict.

If you add to this contribution those of the Member States, the total reaches over 100 Mio Ecus. In addition, the EEC continues to carry out its programmes in favour of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan by financing training, health and income-generating projects, and by supplying substantial quantities of food products; these were worth nearly 20 Mio Ecus in 1988.

All these contributions are put at the disposal of United Nations agencies, the Red Cross or non-governmental organisations.

As you can see from the above, the Commission is not only monitoring the situation but is already active in both humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation needs. Moreover, I can assure you that the Commission is ready to provide further assistance through the appropriate channels, in close coordination with its Member States as and when such additional assistance becomes necessary in future.

Yours faithfully,


Jacques DELORS

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